Development of Tourism

4696. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY:
DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Hotel & Restaurant Associations of India at their annual convention held at Kathmandu on September 17 to 19, 1999 expressed anguish at the slow growth of tourism in the country;

(b) if so, the suggestions put forth by them; and

(c) the action taken to implement them to boost tourism?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) to (c) Yes Sir. The suggestions put forth by them include adoption of Open Sky Policy for liberalization of international flights to India & for rationalization/ reduction of tax structure in the hotels & restaurants.

The recommendations have been brought to the notice of the concerned Ministries and Departments of the Centre/State Government/U.T's.

Handing Over of ITDC Hotels to Private Sector

4697. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recent survey shows drop in hotel occupancy rate for third year in succession;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the ITDC proposes to sell some of its hotels to private sector;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the response received from private sector in this matter?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR); (a) As per an article published in Federation of Hotels & Restaurant Association of india